



MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926

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January 2013



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Holiday

Holiday Schedule
For
Robert E. Lee and
Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr.
Birthday's

Monday,
January 21, 2013

New Year
fresh start
RESOLUTIONS
determination
GOALS AND DREAMS
PEACE
joyful beginnings
OPPORTUNITY
HOPE

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the *10th of the month* to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (*in Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission
822 SCR 115 South
Raleigh, MS 39153

THE MEANING OF NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS

From ancient times, people have welcomed the new year with rituals to attract good fortune. Here's a sampling.

New Year's Eve, with its emphasis on romance and indulgence, might seem like a totally secular celebration. But underneath all that glitter and sparkle is an ancient holiday with deep spiritual roots. For centuries, and in similar ways, people have been observing the end of one year and the beginning of another.

Ancient Romans celebrated with six days of carousing that would probably be familiar to us today. St. Boniface, a missionary from England who visited Rome in 742, was appalled at how the Romans celebrated Kalends of January, as the New Year was called, with "dancing in the streets, heathenish cries, sacrilegious songs, tables laden with food and women wearing amulets and offering them for sale."

A Time of Rebirth

Because the Winter Solstice is the turning point of the year, beginning the lengthening of days, it has long been viewed as the birth of the year--by pagans celebrating the return of the Sun, and by Christians welcoming the birth of the Son of God. The days between Solstice and the New Year

are a magical, luminous time period, when anything is possible. In England, the Twelve Days of Christmas were considered omen days which could be used to predict the weather in the coming year. In Scotland, no court had power during these days; and in Ireland, tradition held that if a person died during the Twelve Days, he or she went straight to Heaven.

In ancient Babylon, the days between the Winter Solstice and the New Year were seen as the time of a struggle between Chaos and Order, with Chaos trying to take over the world. Other cultures (Hindu, Chinese, Celtic) also viewed this as a time for reversing order and rules-celebrants would change roles with servants or dress in costumes for a time until order was restored.

Starting Fresh

While each culture's New Year celebration has its own flavor, there are certain common themes. The period leading up to New Year's Day is a time for setting things straight: a thorough housecleaning, paying off debts, returning borrowed objects, reflecting on one's shortcomings, mending quarrels, giving alms. In many cultures, people jump into the sea or a local body of water-literally washing the slate clean.

In some towns in Italy, I've been told, you have to watch out for falling objects, as people shove their old sofas, chairs and even refrigerators out of their windows on New Year's Eve. In Ecuador, people make dummies, stuffed with straw, to represent the events of the past year. These "ano viejo" effigies are burned at midnight, thus symbolically getting rid of the past.

Whatever preparations are made, most traditions teach that they should be completed before midnight on New Year's Eve. According to British folklore, you should not sweep on New Year's Day, or you will sweep your good luck away, or take anything out of the house-even trash. You only want to bring new things in to insure abundance in the coming year. If you must carry something out, be sure to bring something else in first, preferably a coin concealed outside the previous night. As this medieval poem reminds us: Take out, then take in
Bad luck will begin
Take in, then take out
Good luck comes about

Rituals (and Underwear) for Good Fortune

Everything you do on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day is freighted with significance for the future. The

American custom of spending the night with the one you love and kissing them at midnight insures that the relationship will flourish during the coming year. In Rio de Janeiro, more than a million people gather on the beaches on December 31st to honor Yemanjá, the Yoruban "Mother of the Sea," who brings good fortune.

Even the color of underwear Brazilians wear on the first day of the new year has meaning. Pink brings love, yellow, prosperity; and white, peace and happiness.

The pig is the symbol of good luck in Vienna, Austria. Pigs are let loose in restaurants and everyone tries to touch them for luck as they run by. In private homes, a marzipan pig, with a gold piece in its mouth, is suspended from a ribbon and touched instead. In Greece, it's customary to throw a pomegranate wrapped in silver foil on the threshold, to spread the seeds of good luck for an abundant year.

In Spanish-speaking countries, people put twelve grapes into their wine or champagne glass at midnight. The grapes represent the months of the old year and the new one. At the stroke of midnight, after toasting each other with the wine, people eat the grapes as quickly as

possible, making a wish on each one.

Food and Money: Ensuring Abundance

As everything has significance on New Year's Day, the first person to cross your threshold after midnight brings luck to the household in the British Isles. In Scotland, the best possible "first-footer" was a tall, handsome, dark-haired man, who brought gifts of whisky, bread, a piece of coal or firewood, and a silver coin. He entered in silence, and no one spoke to him until he put the coal on the fire, poured a glass of whisky for the head of the house and wished everyone a Happy New Year. In France, the children knock on their parents' bedroom door, pretending to personify health, abundance and joy, which the parents welcome.

Food eaten on New Year's Day is said to affect the quality of the coming year. The ancient Romans exchanged bay and palm branches hung with sweets, dates, figs and gilded fruits. The items hung on the branch expressed hopes the new year would be sweet, fertile, and prosperous.

Neapolitans still wrap dried figs in laurel leaves and exchange them as a kind of insurance of abundance for the coming year. They also make confections of cara-

melized dough and tiny almond pieces, so the year will be sweet.

The Piedmontese eat little grains of rice which represent money. The traditional Umbrian New Year's cake, made of almonds, sugar, and egg whites, is shaped like a coiled snake, probably to represent the way snakes shed their skin to renew themselves, just as people leave behind the old year and embrace the new. Italians also serve lentils, raisins, and oranges, symbols of riches, good luck, and the promise of love.

In the American South, it's traditional to eat cornbread, cabbage, and black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. The peas symbolize coins or copper money, the cornbread gold, and the cabbage green or folding money.

A Japanese New Year's custom is the money tree: pine and cypress branches placed in a vase, and decorated with old coins and paper pomegranates and flowers. Old coins (with holes in them) are strung on colored threads in the shape of dragon and put at the foot of children's beds. This is called "cash to pass the year." It is supposed to be saved and not spent. However, money is given as a gift, usually in red envelopes.

Continued on page 6

January's Birthdays



Rodney Crimm -1
Nelson Hearn -1
Darrell Dickerson -3
Howard Stogner -4
Patricia Montgomery -5
Erma Steed -5
Randall Arnold -6
Michael Randazzo -8
Candis Wood -9
Jerime Howard -10
Martin McDaniel -12
Billie Owen -14
James Ratcliff -14
Faye Pippen -15
Sandra Ford -16
Phyllis Vining -18
Jeffrey Howell -21
James McCulloch -21
Michael Price -22
Avis Havard -25
Pamela Pace -26
Marcia Stark -27
Braxton Boswell -30
Eric Gonyea -30
Mark Tigner -31





- * William Crenshaw, Forest Ranger, Grenada County, Northwest District
- * John Easley, Forest Ranger, Winston County, East Central District
- * Jeffrey King, Forester, Carroll County, Northwest District
- * Braxston Perrigin, Forest Ranger, Webster County, East Central District
- * Eric Smith, Forest Ranger, Wilkinson County, Southwest District
- * Travis Hilton, Forest Ranger, Jackson County, Southeast District
- * Nathan Thornton, Emergency Telecommunicator, Supervisor, South Central District



**Moving
Up and/
or
Around**

- Rodney Crimm, Service Forester, Montgomery County, Northwest District
- Ronald Strafford, Forester III, Grenada County, Northwest District



My leaves are simple, alternate, deciduous or tardily deciduous. They range in size from 1.0" to 3.0" long and 1.0" wide. My margin is entire or with minute glandular teeth and their apex are acute or rounded with a wedge-shaped based. They are dark green above with a paler green below. Their surface is lustrous above with hairs along the midrib and principal vein on the bottom.

My twigs are slender, brown and crooked with many branches with a single bundle scar and a half-round leaf scar.

My terminal buds absent and my laterals buds are very small. They are nearly globular in shape and reddish brown to reddish purple in color.

My fruit is a berry that is lustrous black in color and 0.25" in diameter.

My flower is monoeocious, perfect, in short axillary racemes. They are 2.0" to 3.0" wide with small leaf-like

TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?

bracts. My flower is white in color and bell-shaped.

My bark is reddish brown with narrow shreddy ridges.

I form multiple stems and reach 28' at maturely. I have a moderate growth rate and reach 28.0' at 20 years. I have a long live span of greater than 100 years.

I am tolerant to shade and have a medium drought and fire tolerance.

I can be found near moist soils near streams and lakes, along hillsides and in high mountain valleys as an understory species. I can maintain myself on soils of limestone origin.

I prefer medium to coarse soil texture and a pH range of 4.0 to 7.0.

I range from Kansas, east to Virginia, south to Florida and west to Texas. In Mississippi, I am found throughout the state.

I have no commercial significance when it comes to timber value and uses.

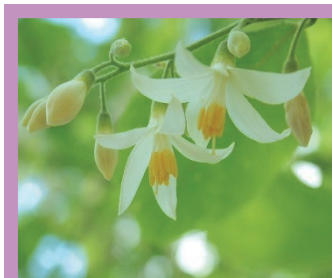
My flowers are a bee attractant, my foliage and fruit provides browse for white-tailed deer and food for many species of hares and rabbit. My fruit is consumed by black bear, chipmunks and numerous species of birds, including the American robin, ruffed grouse and tanagers. I form shrubby thickets which are favored activity centers for transplanted ruffed grouse in northern Georgia and favored nesting by other bird species.

I have attractive glossy summer foliage and reddish purple color in the fall.

My bark was formerly used for tanning leather and my root extracts were traditionally used to treat diarrhea.

Who Am I?

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for December 2012 was the Bigleaf Snowbell (*Styrax grandifolius* Ait.) Check out page 269 in the Mississippi Trees book.



PLANT AN "EDIBLE FOREST" IN YOUR YARD

By Jim Pathfinder Ewing,
Jackson Free Press, No-
vember 21, 2012.

While Arbor Day in Mississippi is in the spring, many experts contend that the best time for planting trees may actually be in the fall.

New roots can develop when the soil temperature is above 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Planting in the fall allows the trees to develop roots before going dormant during the winter.

Budding can stress trees with inadequate root systems, so, if you are going to plant a tree, it's best to do it soon, to allow plenty of time for roots to develop.

Grist magazine reports that urban forests featuring heirloom and indigenous varieties are the next wave of urban agriculture (jfp.ms/Grist). What many Mississippians may not know is that the Magnolia State is ahead of the curve on this, and Jackson foremost.

Mississippi has an established resource with The Edible Forests of Mississippi, an orchard program developed and administered though the Missis-

issippi Urban Forest Council (full disclosure: I serve on the board of directors of MUFC). Its teaching project is the Jesse Gates Edible Forest on Bailey Avenue at Wells United Methodist Church, providing a model for cities across the state, homeowners and community garden groups.

And the Council's webpage offers a toolkit to follow, at msurbanforest.com/edible_forest. But, there is no reason to stay strictly to the orchard model, as at Wells. Homeowners (and others) can create smaller "savanna" type food trees and shrubs to fit in with their established gardens. Think small, understory-type trees that can thrive in moderate shade.

Groups might consider a permaculture model. True permaculture is planting a variety of natural plants that require minimal care with little or no soil disturbance to provide food. It would work well with establishing or established community gardens to provide a mixed variety of food sources.

Mississippi State University Extension experts say that the easiest fruits to grow are blueberry, fig,

Oriental persimmon and blackberry. Pecan, strawberry and pear are considered moderately hard to grow; peach, apple and plum are the most difficult in regard to spraying, watering, pruning, etc. For more information, see: <http://msucare.com>.

Jim PathFinder Ewing's new book, "Conscious Food: Sustainable Growing, Spiritual Eating" (Findhorn Press), is in bookstores now. Find Jim on Facebook, follow him @edibleprayers or visit blueskywaters.com.

Suggested Reading:

An excellent source for ideas is Edible Forest Gardens: The Ecology and Design of Home Scale Food Forests, a website based on the two-volume set, "Edible Forest Gardens" by David Jacke, (Chelsea Green, 2005, \$150 for set). Visit the site at edibleforestgardens.com.

P.S. Arbor Day in Mississippi is the second Friday of February.



Moving On

- ♦ Justin Skipper, Forest Ranger, Hancock County, Southeast District
- ♦ Wesley Howard, Forester, Leflore County, Northwest District

SAVE the DATE

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

2013
Backyards & Beyond

Wildland Fire Education Conference

NOVEMBER
12-16, 2013
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



Although many of these customs may seem like superstitions, they all stem from a similar belief: by ending the old year with respect and beginning the new one in the way we would like it to begin, we establish our intentions for the new year. Whether we gather together to watch the ball drop in Times Square or set off firecrackers at midnight or clink champagne glasses with our loved ones, we are acknowledging an important transition and welcoming a fresh start.

May your New Year be rich with all of the blessings you desire.

SYMBOLISM OR MEANING OF COLORS FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

- ◆ Red is for love
- ◆ Green is for money
- ◆ Purple is for purity
- ◆ Yellow is for peace
- ◆ Black is for health
- ◆ White is for clean



COLORS THAT REPRESENT NEW YEAR'S

- ◆ Silver & Gold
- ◆ Bright Colors (Blue, Red, Yellow, Green, etc.)

GIANT SEQUOIA TREE 'THE PRESIDENT' TOPS 'GENERAL GRANT,' NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHS THE FOREST

AP | By TRACIE CONE .

Posted: 12/01/2012

FRESNO, Calif. — Deep in the Sierra Nevada, the famous General Grant giant sequoia tree is suffering its loss of stature in silence. What once was the world's No. 2 biggest tree has been supplanted thanks to the most comprehensive measurements taken of the largest living things on Earth.

The new No. 2 is The President, a 54,000-cubic-foot gargantuan not far from the Grant in Sequoia National Park. After 3,240 years, the giant sequoia still is growing wider at a consistent rate, which may be what most surprised the scientists examining how the sequoias and coastal redwoods will be affected by climate change and whether these trees have a role to play in combating it.

"I consider it to be the greatest tree in all of the mountains of the world," said Stephen Sillett, a redwood researcher whose team from Humboldt State University is seeking to mathematically assess the potential of California's iconic trees to absorb planet-

warming carbon dioxide.

The researchers are a part of the 10-year Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative funded by the Save the Redwoods League in San Francisco. The measurements of The President, reported in the current National Geographic, dispelled the previous notion that the big trees grow more slowly in old age.

It means, the experts say, the amount of carbon dioxide they absorb during photosynthesis continues to increase over their lifetimes.

In addition to painstaking measurements of every branch and twig, the team took 15 half-centimeter-wide core samples of The President to determine its growth rate, which they learned was stunted in the abnormally cold year of 1580 when temperatures in the Sierra hovered near freezing even in the summer and the trees remained dormant.

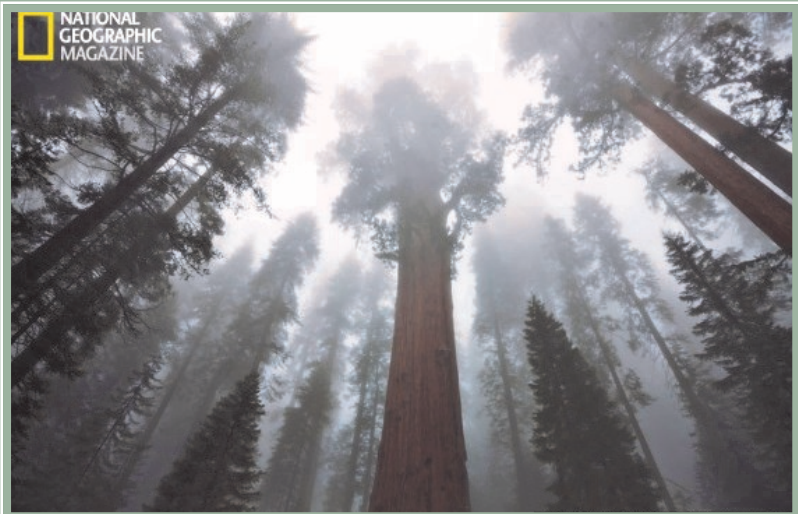
But that was an anomaly, Sillett said. The President adds about one cubic meter of wood a year during its short six-month growing season, making it one of the fastest-growing

trees in the world. Its 2 billion leaves are thought to be the most of any tree on the planet, which would also make it one of the most efficient at transforming carbon dioxide into nourishing sugars during photosynthesis.

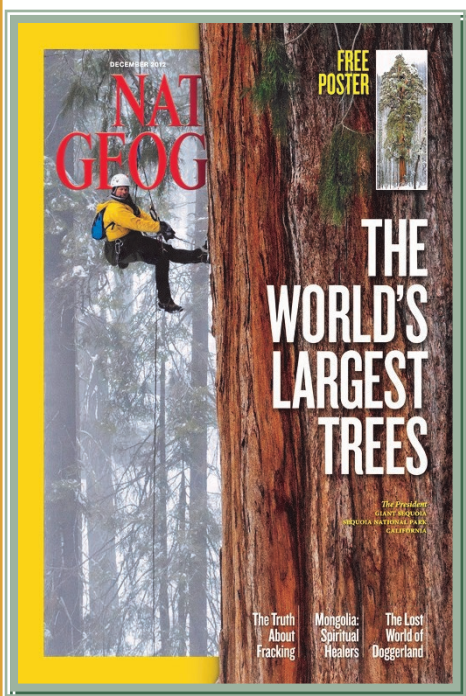
"We're not going to save the world with any one strategy, but part of the value of these great trees is this contribution and we're trying to get a handle on the math behind that," Sillett said.

After the equivalent of 32 working days dangling from ropes in The President, Sillett's team is closer to having a mathematical equation to determine its carbon conversion potential, as it has done with some less famous coastal redwoods. The team has analyzed a representative sample that can be used to model the capacity of the state's signature trees.





The living crown (this one atop the General Sherman, at center) was once a distant mystery. Scientist Steve Sillett's new arboreal studies have yielded revelations, including this: These old trees are still growing fast.



All images from the December issue of National Geographic magazine.



PANTONE ANNOUNCES TOP COLORS FOR 2013

For over 20 years, Pantone, the global authority on color, has surveyed the designers of New York Fashion Week and beyond to bring you the season's most important color trends. Listed below are the top 10 hues for Spring 2013.

Monaco Blue was named the 2013 Color of Year.



(Top to Bottom)

Emerald
Dusk Blue
Grayed Jade
Tender Shoots
Lemon Zest
African Violet
Linen
Monaco Blue
Poppy Red
Nectarine

The Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival as it's been called since the 20th century, remains the most important social and economic holiday in China.

Originally tied to the lunar-solar Chinese calendar, the holiday was a time to honor household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. It was also a time to bring family together for feasting.

With the popular adoption in China of the Western calendar in 1912, the Chinese joined in celebrating January 1 as New Year's Day.

China, however, continues to celebrate the traditional Chinese New Year, although in a shorter version with a new name—the Spring Festival. Significantly, younger generations of Chinese now observe the holiday in a very different manner from their ancestors. For some young people, the holiday has evolved from an opportunity to renew family ties to a chance for relaxation from work.

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U. N. APPROVES ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

DOHA, Qatar (3 December 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly Second Committee has passed a draft resolution to designate March 21 each year the International Day of Forests, encouraging all Member States to organize forest-related activities, including tree-planting campaigns.

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is tasked with organizing the International Day, in collaboration with governments, the Collaborative Partnerships on For-

ests, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, and other international and regional groups.

The measure was passed on 30 November 2012 as part of a set of draft resolutions on sustainable development, including one designed to stress the need to strengthen scientific activities that work to combat desertification, land degradation and drought.

Last year, 2011, was named the International Year of Forests by the United Nations to raise awareness on sustainable

management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

The year's theme "Forests for People", highlighted the value of forests and their economic and social relationship with humankind – and millions of people worldwide participated.

Organizations including CIFOR held special events during the year that catalyzed unprecedented public interest in forests and the challenges they face.

Forest Facts

Fact 1: Forest Area By U. S. Region

Original forests in what is now the U.S. totaled about 1.05 billion acres (including what is now the State of AK and HI). Clearing of forest land in the East between 1850 and 1900 averaged 13 square miles every day for 50 years; the most prolific period of forest clearing in U.S. history. This coincides with one of the most prolific periods of U.S. immigration. Currently, forests cover about 749 million acres of the U.S. or about 33 percent of all land.

Fact 2: Forest Trees in U. S. Growing In Volume.

Tree volumes since 1950 have increased and most importantly not dropped. The U.S. now grows more wood, in the form of living trees, than in the last 60 years. Total volume of net growth has slowed in recent years but still ahead of tree vol-

ume being cut. Removals have also stabilized but imports are on the rise. While total tree death, called mortality, is up, the rate of mortality as percent of live volume is stable.

Fact 3: Private U. S. Tree owners Supply the World.

As public policy has shifted, tree cutting (removals) has moved dramatically from public land in the West to private land in the East in the last 15 years. This commercial forest, America's tree farm, is the major supplier of wood in the United States. Most of these tree farms are located in the east and continue to increase both growth and resulting product.

Source: National Report on Forest Resources

FOREST RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES

Before European settlement, forests covered nearly one billion acres of what is now the United States. Since the mid-1600's, about 300 million acres of forest have been cleared, primarily for agriculture during the 19th century. Today about one-third of the nation is forested. While total forest area has been relatively stable for the last 100 years (currently about 747 million acres), there have been significant regional shifts in the area and composition of the nation's forests. Reversion of marginal farmland in the east, large scale planting in the South, and fire suppression have contributed to increases in forest area. Urbanization, conversion to agriculture, reservoir construction, and natural disasters have been major factors contributing to loss of forests.

Eastern forests cover about 384 million acres and are predominantly broadleaf (74%), with the exception of extensive coniferous forests and plantations in the southern coastal region. These are largely in private ownership (83%). By contrast, about 363 million acres of western forests are predominantly coniferous (78%) and in public ownership (57%). Nearly ten million private individuals own about 422 million acres of forest and other wooded land. Most public forest land is held by four Federal agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service) as well as numerous state, county, and municipal government organizations. Major uses of forests include timber production, recreation, hunting, fishing, watershed and fisheries protection, wildlife

habitat and biodiversity protection, and gathering nontimber products such as berries, mushrooms, and medicinal plants.

References:

Eyre, F.H., 1980, Forest Cover Types of the United States and Canada: Society of American Foresters, 148p.

Smith, W.B., Vissage, J.S., Darr, D.R., and Sheffield, R.M., 2000, Forest Resources of the United States, 1997: St. Paul, MN, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Zhu, Z. and Evans, D.L., 1994, U.S. Forest Types and Predicted Percent Forest Cover from AVHRR Data: Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, v. 60, No. 5, p. 525-531.

From
www.nationalatlas.gov.

Traditionally, the Chinese New Years is named in a 60 year cycle, using a combination of the one of the twelve Earthly Branches and one of the ten Heavenly Stems. The 10 heavenly stems referred yin-yang principles and the elements of wood, fire, earth, metal and water. The 12 earthly branches included 12 animals: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and wild boar.

2013 will be known as the Yin Water Snake Year or the Year of the Snake.

The Year of the Snake starts on February 10, 2013 and ends on January 30, 2014. The Snake is the sixth sign in the Chinese Zodiac Horoscope and signifies wisdom. The Snake was admired by the ancient Chinese as great thinkers.



YEAR OF  SNAKE

TOP FIVE CONIFER KILLING INSECTS

By Steve Nix, About.com Guide

- ◆ #5 -Wooly Adelgids
- ◆ #4 - Tussock Moth
- ◆ #3 - Spruce Budworm
- ◆ #2 -Pales and White Pine Weevils
- ◆ #1 - Bark Beetles



Southern Pine Beetle.



NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

EUROPEAN NEW YEAR

In Europe the custom of first-footing is practiced. This is where the first person to enter the house after midnight must be male and is supposed to bring good luck to the household. The visitor is also supposed to bring a gift such as money, bread, or coal, this are supposed to ensure the family will have plenty of these in the coming year.

Throughout the world the custom of making noise to ring in the New Year has not gone untouched as this was supposed to scare off any evil spirits. Today any noise is used such as clackers, toy trumpets, whistles, and bells are party favors given to guests to use when the New Year has rung in.

SWISS NEW YEAR

In Switzerland people celebrate Old Sylvester's Day on 13 January according to the Julian calendar. People go through the streets dressed in costumes and hats representing good and evil spirits.

In Switzerland people believe good luck comes from letting a drop of cream land on the floor New Years Day. This was said to bring a year of overflowing abundance.

January 2013

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Tree Planting Facts

Fact #1. Tree planting on all ownerships totals approximately two and half million acres annually. This annual planting roughly equals the size of the State of Connecticut. Compare this annual planting to 2.3 million acres of trees planted under the ten year Civilian Conservation Corps tree planting program (mid-1930's to mid-1940's) and to 2.2 million acres under the entire Soil Bank Program (1956 to 1961).

Fact #2. The first records of tree planting in the United States were collected in 1930 and showed an annual planting of 138,970 acres. The most acreage planted in any single year came in 1988 when nearly 3.4 million acres were planted. This was at the peak of the federal Conservation Reserve Program.

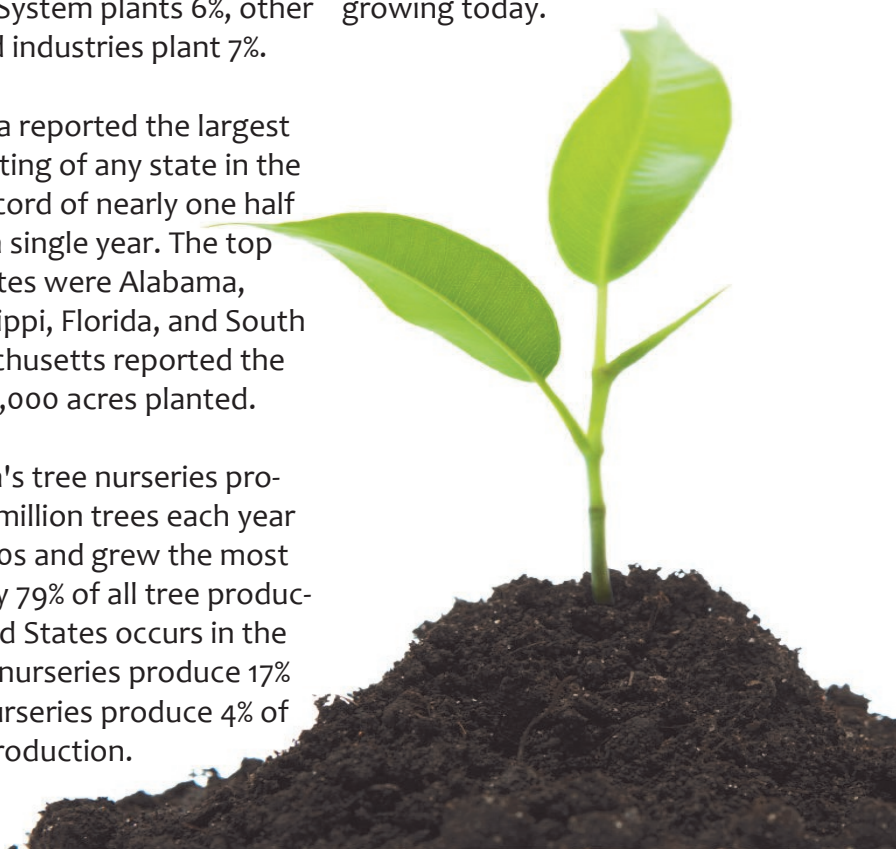
Fact #3. Forest industry plants 45%, non-industrial private owners plant 42%, the National Forest System plants 6%, other government and industries plant 7%.

Fact #4. Alabama reported the largest annual tree planting of any state in the nation with a record of nearly one half million acres in a single year. The top five planting states were Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, and South Carolina. Massachusetts reported the least with only 7,000 acres planted.

Fact #5. Georgia's tree nurseries produced over 250 million trees each year through the 1990s and grew the most seedlings. Nearly 79% of all tree production in the United States occurs in the South. Western nurseries produce 17% and Northern nurseries produce 4% of total U.S. tree production.

Fact #6. The latest consolidated report on tree planting on a national scale is reported in a U.S. Forest Service publication called "Forest Resources of the United States, 2002" which is a collection of data from the end of 2001. There are 56 million acres of tree planted in the United States, 4 million in the northern states, 38 million in the south and 14 million in the west.

Fact #7. During the following 22-year period (1975 - 1997), large areas of marginal timberland and farmland were converted to tree plantations due to the Forest Incentives Program and later the Conservation Reserve Program. The peak year for planting, 1987-88, resulted in 2.3 billion seedlings planted on 3.3 million acres. Over 50 million acres of pine and hardwood trees were planted during this 22-year period - nearly as many acres of planted trees as are growing today.



DALE OLIVER BECOMES NEW DISTRICT FORESTER

Jackson, MS – Effective December 17, 2012, Dale Oliver will assume the position of Capital District Forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC).

Oliver, a graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in forest management, has been in the forest industry for over 30 years, in which most of those years were spent in hardwood management. He was previously an advisor to the Secretary of State, assisting the MFC in management of forested acres of 16th Section School Trust lands.

“With his knowledge and experience in hardwood management, Dale will add to the strength of our management of 16th Sections forested with hardwoods” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. “Because of his role with the Secretary of State’s office, he is familiar with our management practices and our field personnel carrying out these practices. We are looking forward to having Dale on board.”

Prior to his position at the Secretary of State’s office, Oliver was timber procurement manager for Anderson Tully Company, as well as Vice President of Operations. His career also includes holding positions at Packaging Corporation of America, Northwest Hardwoods (Arkansas) and J.H. Hamlin Lumber Company (Arkansas). Oliver is a registered forester with the State of Mississippi.

Firewise Event



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Johnson of Oxford, MS attended the November 13, 2012, How To Have A Firewise Home meeting in Lafayette County. This event was sponsored by the Lafayette County Soil & Water Conservation District, the North Central MS RC&D Council and the MFC. "Firewise school is for everyone. My wife and I learned a lot in the class. It is one of the best MFC programs I've ever seen", said Lafayette County Fire Coordinator Jerry Johnson. Photo submitted by Leslie Blackwell, MFC Firewise Coordinator.

ROMAN NEW YEAR

Romans prepare for the New Year festival which is known as January Kalends by decorating their houses with lights and greenery. The festival lasts for three days, during this time they hold feasts and exchange gifts which were carefully chosen for their luck-bringing properties these include such things as sweets or honey to ensure sweetness and peace as well as Gold, Silver or money for prosperity. Lamps for a year filled with light.

They might also go to the Roman emperor and present him with a gift and wish him good fortune for the year ahead. Other politicians received gifts as well.

Normal rules of the society went on hold during the New Year festivities.

PORTUGUESE NEW YEAR

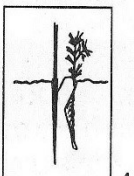
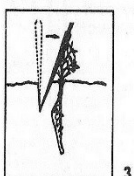
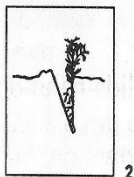
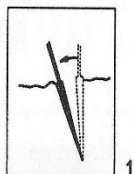
The Portuguese pick and eat twelve grapes from a bunch as the clock strikes twelve on New Year's Eve. This is done to ensure twelve happy months in the coming year.

In Northern Portugal children go caroling from home to home and are given treats and coins. They sing old songs or **Janeiro's** which is said to bring good luck

How To Plant Seedlings Using The Dibble Bar

Planting with Dibble Bar

1. Insert the dibble straight down into the soil to the full depth of the blade and pull back on the handle to open the planting hole. (DO NOT rock the dibble back and forth as this causes soil in the planting hole to be compacted, inhibiting root growth.)
2. Remove the dibble and push the seedling roots deep into the planting hole. Pull the seedling back up to the correct planting depth. Gently shake the seedling to allow the roots to straighten out. DO NOT twist or spin the seedling or leave the roots J-rooted.
3. Insert the dibble several inches in front of the seedling and push the blade halfway into the soil.
4. Push the dibble down to the full depth of the blade.
5. Pull back on the handle to close the bottom of the planting hole. Then push forward to close the top, eliminating air pockets around the roots.
6. Remove the dibble and close and firm up the opening with your heel. BE CAREFUL to avoid damaging the seedling.



NEW FIREWISE COMMUNITY

Ethel, Mississippi -- Because of its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire, Ethel, Mississippi has earned Firewise Communities/USA recognition from the National Firewise Communities Program.

The town of Ethel worked with the Mississippi Forestry Commission to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment and develop a plan to address safety concerns. Residents then worked together to implement the plan. "Ethel, Mississippi took a great leap forward in preparing for wildfires. The community is located in one of Mississippi's hottest counties and the community recognized this fact. I had great local cooperation on the Commission's portion of the project. Ethel is on the national Firewise Communities map now and ready to move forward with wildfire protection", said Leslie Blackwell, Mississippi Forestry Commission Firewise Coordinator.

Ethel, Mississippi is the fifth community in Mississippi to be recognized as Firewise Communities/USA, joining many other communities nationwide that have been recognized since the program's inception in 2002.

Firewise Communities/USA is a part of the National Firewise Communities Program, an interagency program designed to encourage local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire. The National Firewise Communities Program includes Firewise Communities workshops, Firewise Communities/USA recognition program, and support for fire organizations and community groups. The National Firewise Communities Program is sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team, a consortium of wildland fire agencies that includes the USDA Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, the National Association of State Foresters, the US Fire Administration, and the National Fire Protection Association. For more information, visit www.firewise.org.



Happy New Year



2013 Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo.

This year's Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo will run from January 26 thru February 17, 2013.

2013 Mississippi Arbor Day — Second Friday in February.

Income Taxes And The Family Forest.

Many forest landowners may pay more than their fair share of taxes on their timber income. Knowing the tax rules will give you an advantage in planning your forest management activities and save you money. This information meeting will be held at the Oktibbeha County Extension Office, 106 Felix Long Drive, Starkville, MS on January 29, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

GARDEN & PATIO SHOW 2013

Spring is just around the corner and what a better time to get ready for it - under one location - at one of the most anticipated events of the Spring! Educational gardening seminars, experts in gardening products, services, outdoor living needs, yard art...you name it, we have it, we know about it, and by the end of the show...so will YOU! Calling all "gardening enthusiasts - come "grow" with us! Don't miss this all inspiring, beautiful show! *Hosted by the MS Nursery & Landscape Association!*

Gulf Coast, Mississippi

- **Date(s):** 03/01/2013 - 03/03/2013
- **Times:** Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm
- **Location:** MS Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd, Biloxi
- **Admission:** \$6.00 Adults; Children 12 & Under Free; Free Parking

Jackson, Mississippi

- **Date(s):** 03/15/2013 - 03/17/2013
- **Times:** Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm
- **Location:** Trade Mart Building, MS State Fairgrounds, 1207 Mississippi Street, Jackson
- **Admission:** \$6.00 Adults; Children 12 & Under Free; Free Parking



TAX TIPS FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS



Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist and John Greene, Research Forester, Southern Research Station has published a tax tips bulletin for the 2012 tax season.

This bulletin is to assist forest landowners and their advisors with timber tax information they can use to file their 2012 income tax returns. This information is current as of September 15, 2012.

For more information, [click here](#).



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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An open letter to all employees of the Mississippi Forestry Commission:

By the time you read this, we all will have celebrated Christmas and welcomed the new year of 2013. I sincerely hope each of you had a pleasant holiday season that you spent safely with the ones you love the most.

As for the New Year, it promises many new challenges and many new opportunities. You have all given the Commission the dedication required to accomplish the aggressive goals placed in front of you. On behalf of the entire board and the State Forester, I would like to sincerely thank you. We truly appreciate all you have accomplished and the safe manner in which you have done so. I would like to encourage you to think of safety in all your personal activities just as you have done with work. Those people in your life that care for you want you home safe every night. The recent loss of one of our own due to a hunting accident should remind us to stay vigilant at all times. That loss will be with us for a long time and many will miss what might have been.

As to the challenges we face, they are not so large that we cannot conquer them. The first for you will be to learn the new MSWIN radio system and its operation. The goal here is to provide you with a system that will allow efficient operation on a statewide and intra-agency basis. A short learning curve is to be expected, but even with that the goal of giving you the safest work environment possible is within our reach.

The second challenge comes with the re-inventory of all the forest lands in the state. This MIFI inventory is necessary to keep the state's resource information accurate and fresh in order to continue to attract industries to the state to use our forest products. This will take some time and effort on your part and at times be something of a burden to accomplish while maintaining your normal workload.

As a board, the challenge for us is to find a way to adequately recognize the progress you have made. As a start, we have included in our 2014 fiscal year budget request the funds for your career ladder advancements. This has already been approved by the State Personnel Board but will require funding from the coming legislative session. I assure you, we will attempt to inform our elected officials how deserving you are.

Finally, I would like to be sure that each and every employee of the Mississippi Forestry Commission knows how valued you are. Your safety, welfare, input and opinions matter to all of us. If you feel you have a good idea or suggestion, feel free to express yourself. The leadership of the Commission is always willing to hear from you. Our contact information is easily available on our website.

Thank you again for all you have and will accomplish.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Buck Hobbs'.

Buck Hobbs, Chairman
Mississippi Forestry Commission
Board of Commissioners

Safety First . . .

WINTER WEATHER



Every part of Mississippi is susceptible to winter weather conditions that include ice and snow storms. While they are not common occurrences like severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, we must still be prepared.

Winter Weather: Know the Terms

- **Winter Storm Watch:** A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to your NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for more information.
- **Winter Storm Warning:** A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.
- **Freezing Rain:** Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.
- **Sleet:** Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.
- **Frost/Freeze Warning:** Below freezing temperatures are expected.

Dress for the Weather:

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight and warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.
- Wear a hat.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

Prepare your home and family:

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip slightly during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to shut off water valves, in the case of a pipe bursting.
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

Prepare your car:

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- Antifreeze levels: ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system: should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes: check for wear and fluid levels.
- Heater and defroster: ensure they are working properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights: ensure they are working properly.
- Gas tank: Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

For more information, visit [Mississippi Emergency management Agency's website](http://MississippiEmergencyManagementAgency.com).

First Time, Every Time